

MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET  
AS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY  
AND MOTOR VEHICLES  
December 18, 2007

AGENDA

Agency Contact: Lee Ann Korst, (850) 617-3100

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1. Respectfully submit the Minutes for September 19, 2007, Cabinet meeting.  
  
Attachment #1.  
Recommend.
2. Respectfully submit the Minutes for October 2, 2007, Cabinet meeting.  
  
Attachment #2.  
Recommend.
3. Respectfully submit the new state of Florida license plate, Protect Florida Springs.  
  
Attachment #3.  
For Information.

# ATTACHMENT 1

THE CABINET  
STATE OF FLORIDA

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Representing:

DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION, OFFICE OF  
FINANCIAL REGULATION

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION, OFFICE OF  
INSURANCE REGULATION

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND

STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The above agencies came to be heard before  
THE FLORIDA CABINET, Honorable Governor Crist  
presiding, in the Cabinet Meeting Room, LL-03, The  
Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, on Wednesday, September  
19, 2007, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Reported by:  
JO LANGSTON  
Registered Professional Reporter  
Notary Public

ACCURATE STENOGRAPHY REPORTERS, INC.  
2894 REMINGTON GREEN LANE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32308  
(850) 878-2221

APPEARANCES:

Representing the Florida Cabinet:

CHARLIE CRIST  
Governor

CHARLES H. BRONSON  
Commissioner of Agriculture

BILL McCOLLUM  
Attorney General

ALEX SINK  
Chief Financial Officer

\* \* \*



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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES  
(Presented by DAVID WESTBERRY)

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND  
(Presented by MICHAEL SOLE)

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STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION  
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1 GOVERNOR CRIST: Highway Safety and Motor  
2 Vehicles.

3 MR. WESTBERRY: Good morning, Governor, Cabinet  
4 members.

5 GOVERNOR CRIST: How are you? We've got some  
6 license plates today.

7 MR. WESTBERRY: We do. We do. It is my privilege  
8 to kind of pinch hit for our executive director this  
9 morning, who is unable to be with us. But we do have  
10 one item of information for you, as we bring you three  
11 of the newest specialty license plates that were passed  
12 by our Legislature this past spring.

13 GOVERNOR CRIST: Yes, sir.

14 MR. WESTBERRY: We have the Corrections  
15 Foundation, the NASCAR plate and the Support Our Troops  
16 plate. These are three of the five plates that were  
17 approved by the Legislature this spring, and each of  
18 these plates have met all of the necessary statutory  
19 requirements that are necessary for us to go ahead and  
20 put them into production.

21 So, Governor, with the Cabinet's acceptance of  
22 these, we'll go ahead and introduce a few guests that  
23 we have with us today.

24 GOVERNOR CRIST: Sure. Why don't we take care of  
25 the motion. Is there a motion to approve these plates?



1 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Motion on Item 1.

2 GOVERNOR CRIST: Is there a second?

3 CFO SINK: Second.

4 GOVERNOR CRIST: Moved and seconded. Show it  
5 approved without objection.

6 MR. WESTBERRY: Great. Thank you, sir. First and  
7 foremost I think it would be incumbent upon me to  
8 recognize Representative Alan Hays, who is with us  
9 today, the sponsor of the House version of the bill  
10 that was passed that includes all of these plates in  
11 here. And we do want to thank him for the work that he  
12 has done in bringing all these to fruition.

13 GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you, Representative, very  
14 much. Appreciate you being here, sir.

15 MR. WESTBERRY: First with us today we have, on  
16 behalf of the Corrections Foundation, the president of  
17 that foundation, Mr. Louie Wainwright.

18 GOVERNOR CRIST: Secretary, how are you this  
19 morning?

20 MR. WAINWRIGHT: Fine, sir.

21 GOVERNOR CRIST: Good to see you again, Louie.

22 MR. WAINWRIGHT: Governor, members of the Cabinet,  
23 I'm honored to stand before you this morning as  
24 president of the Corrections Foundation. As you know,  
25 the Corrections Department has 27,000 employees. And

1 the Corrections Foundation was established in 1996,  
2 under the organization, under the administration of  
3 Secretary Harry Singletary, and we celebrated our tenth  
4 year just a few months ago.

5 We are organized, the foundation was established  
6 in 1996 as a nonprofit, direct support organization of  
7 the Department of Corrections, pursuant to Chapter  
8 944.804 Florida Statutes. And we are governed by a  
9 board of 11 members at this time, appointed by the  
10 secretary, and the secretary also appoints the  
11 president of the foundation.

12 The board is very diligent. We have sole support  
13 from the board. One of the board members is here,  
14 Mr. Woody. The secretary is here, who gives us strong  
15 support. The deputy secretary is here, who also gives  
16 us strong support. And we have had excellent  
17 cooperation and support from the Department of Highway  
18 Safety.

19 And we are pleased that we have been able to  
20 assist DC employees in their cases of disaster, house  
21 burnings, deaths, injury on duty and so forth. And the  
22 Attorney General mentioned the hazardous duty of the  
23 Highway Patrol and the sheriffs' offices and the police  
24 departments.

25 I remind you that the corrections staff,

1 particularly those at the institutions, are dealing  
2 with felons 24 hours a day. And they also perform  
3 great assistance during emergencies, hurricanes. They  
4 sometimes have to move inmates from one institution to  
5 another.

6 In addition to that, they go into the community  
7 and help rebuild and clean up the communities, and they  
8 never get credit for it. The Highway Patrol, police,  
9 sheriffs and medical techs and so forth get the credit,  
10 but they forget about the Highway Patrol (sic).

11 And we are very pleased that we have had the tag  
12 established by the Legislature. And we think that it  
13 will be helpful in our fund-raising efforts of the  
14 foundation for the coming years.

15 Since the foundation has been organized, we've  
16 spent \$2 million for 1,900 DC employees and staff  
17 members who have been -- had disasters in the family,  
18 house burnings, killed on duty or otherwise. And we  
19 greatly appreciate your support. We hope you will  
20 approve the tag.

21 And we think it will serve a two-fold purpose.  
22 Number one, it will help us fund the program. And,  
23 number two, hopefully it will help the press and the  
24 Legislature and others recognize the corrections  
25 personnel when they're recognizing other parts of the



1 criminal justice system, and I hope that it will  
2 accomplish that.

3 GOVERNOR CRIST: I'm sure it will. Thank you,  
4 Secretary.

5 MR. WESTBERRY: Thank you, Mr. Wainwright,  
6 appreciate that. Governor, with your permission also,  
7 next from the folks from NASCAR, we have their  
8 president, Mr. Mike Helton.

9 GOVERNOR CRIST: Good to see you, Mike. Love that  
10 plate.

11 CFO SINK: Yeah, it's great.

12 MR. HELTON: Thank you. We do, too. Governor and  
13 the Cabinet, I want to take this opportunity on behalf  
14 of the France family, all of NASCAR, as well as the  
15 NASCAR Foundation, for your approval of this plate, and  
16 also, Representative Hays, for your action and all the  
17 folks that helped bring this together.

18 This plate gives NASCAR fans who are residents of  
19 Florida the opportunity to show their enthusiasm for a  
20 sport that was founded here in Florida in 1948 by the  
21 France family and still operates its home office in  
22 Daytona Beach, Florida today. So thank you very much  
23 for your support and approval of this tag.

24 GOVERNOR CRIST: Well, thank you for yours. And  
25 if I might, you know, the sport that you're involved in



1 is one of the most, if not the most popular sport in  
2 our country. And, you know, you're building tracks all  
3 over the place, and your success has been  
4 extraordinary.

5 And we are very proud of the fact that you're  
6 based here in the sunshine state and that you have  
7 several great races that you continue to house here in  
8 Florida, both at Daytona and Homestead. I'm a fan. I  
9 was first introduced to NASCAR by a good buddy of mine  
10 named Scott Brantley, who played at the University of  
11 Florida, was a great linebacker there, and then he  
12 played for the Buccaneers, my home team, in Tampa Bay  
13 for a long time, and still does radio sports.

14 And he called me one July 4th a long time ago and  
15 asked what I was doing and I said, "Hanging out." And  
16 he said, well, we're doing a show, radio show over at  
17 the then Firecracker 400. He said, "Why don't you come  
18 along and see what you think of it." And I've been  
19 addicted ever since, and it's great, and we appreciate  
20 what you do. And we really appreciate the France  
21 family.

22 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Governor, maybe we can get  
23 the president to tell us if -- I don't even know if the  
24 press conference has been held yet, but what number is  
25 Junior going to be running and who is the sponsor.

1 MR. HELTON: Since Dallas is on Central Time, I  
2 may have to wait just a second.

3 GOVERNOR CRIST: We won't preempt it then. Thank  
4 you very much for being here.

5 MR. HELTON: Thank you.

6 GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you, sir. Please give our  
7 good wishes to our friends in Daytona.

8 MR. WESTBERRY: Thank you, Mike, appreciate it.  
9 Governor, last and certainly not least, from the  
10 Support Our Troops organization, their president,  
11 Mr. Martin Boire.

12 GOVERNOR CRIST: Good morning.

13 MR. BOIRE: Good morning, Governor, members of the  
14 Cabinet and the press. It is actually quite simple.  
15 When we ask our neighbors to leave their families at  
16 home to go off and look out for our families, we take  
17 upon ourselves the moral obligation to look out for  
18 their families with the same dedication and sincerity  
19 that they're off looking out for ours.

20 This plate is part, a simple part of the answer to  
21 that moral obligation. It does two things. It allows  
22 people to stick up for those who stick up for them, and  
23 it aggregates patriotic private money that can then be  
24 used to look out for the families of those who are  
25 looking out for ours.

1           This plate is simply our gift from our families to  
2           their families. Now in every project --

3           GOVERNOR CRIST: That's a beautiful plate, by the  
4           way.

5           MR. BOIRE: Thank you. Of all those involved, it  
6           always comes down to the fact and hinges on the actions  
7           of a single individual. And here that individual is  
8           Representative Alan Hays. If you'd stand, please, sir.

9           GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you, Representative.

10          MR. BOIRE: He met every challenge, fought every  
11          battle. Without his true grit, this resource would not  
12          be. And all honor and glory for its existence is due  
13          him. Your reporters that are here today became such  
14          because you, like I, believe in the power of the pen to  
15          spread the word about right and to inform the public  
16          about good things.

17          And please let me suggest that this is one of  
18          those moments where if you take this upon yourself to  
19          significantly inform the public about this great new  
20          resource for our neighbors, the troops are simply our  
21          neighbors who have left their homes, great good can  
22          come of it.

23          And my assistant has some CDs with textual matter  
24          and high res jpegs of this that could be used for media  
25          purposes. And she can be found in the small gray



1       sweatshirt seated in the middle there. If you raise  
2       your hand, she will diligently hunt you out.

3               And if at some point we could get a picture with  
4       the plate, I would be grateful. Thank you.

5               GOVERNOR CRIST: Sure, would be happy to. In  
6       fact, that was the last of the three? Would you like  
7       to get a picture with the Cabinet?

8               MR. WESTBERRY: Certainly.

9               GOVERNOR CRIST: Why don't we -- if you have a few  
10      words to say, we'll wait for the CFO to get back.

11              MR. WESTBERRY: Great. Thank you. And, again, I  
12      appreciate the work of the representative and really  
13      all the groups that are represented here today, I think  
14      that they have done a great job of working with the  
15      Department and putting their resources together to make  
16      this a reality.

17              We know there are a lot of folks who are greatly  
18      anticipating these. We hope to see these in the  
19      offices, available to the public. There are a number  
20      of different mechanisms that they can use to acquire  
21      these, including some new things that the Department  
22      has done with gift certificate programs for specialty  
23      plates. So I think it's going to be exciting to see  
24      the marketing efforts proceed from here.

25              And with your permission, we'll go ahead and start

1 getting ready for some photo ops.

2 GOVERNOR CRIST: Sure. Why don't we start getting  
3 ready for that.

4 MR. WESTBERRY: Thank you, Governor, appreciate  
5 it.

6 GOVERNOR CRIST: We'll take a couple of minutes.

7 (Photographs taken)

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# ATTACHMENT 2

T H E   C A B I N E T  
S T A T E   O F   F L O R I D A

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Representing:

DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND  
STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The above agencies came to be heard before  
THE FLORIDA CABINET, Honorable Governor Crist presiding,  
in the Cabinet Meeting Room, LL-03, The Capitol,  
Tallahassee, Florida, on Tuesday, October 2, 2007,  
commencing at approximately 9:11 a.m.

Reported by:

MARY ALLEN NEEL  
Registered Professional Reporter  
Registered Florida Reporter  
Notary Public

ACCURATE STENOGRAPHY REPORTERS, INC.  
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## APPEARANCES:

Representing the Florida Cabinet:

CHARLIE CRIST  
Governor

CHARLES H. BRONSON  
Commissioner of Agriculture

BILL McCOLLUM  
Attorney General

ALEX SINK  
Chief Financial Officer

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## I N D E X

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY  
FOR ENTERPRISE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Vote	Approved	6
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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Vote	Approved	7
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DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE  
(Presented by BEN WATKINS)

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DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
(Presented by JIM ZINGALE)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
(Presented by ADMIRAL LEROY COLLINS, JR.)

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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES  
(Presented by ELECTRA BUSTLE)

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(Presented by MIKE SOLE)

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STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION  
(Presented by COLEMAN STIPANOVICH)

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1 GOVERNOR CRIST: Highway Safety and Motor  
2 Vehicles, Director. What a neat title, director.

3 MS. BUSTLE: Good morning. Thank you, Good  
4 morning.

5 Before I get started, if I could just take a  
6 moment to introduce our interim director with the  
7 Florida Highway Patrol, Colonel John Czernis. He  
8 is a 30-year veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol  
9 who started his career in 1974 with the Vero Beach  
10 Police Department and shortly thereafter in 1977  
11 started with the Florida Highway Patrol. He  
12 started as a trooper, worked his way up until his  
13 promotion to lieutenant colonel in 2003. He has  
14 either worked in or supervised almost every  
15 division within the patrol, including field  
16 operations, investigations, and the training  
17 academy. We are lucky to have his depth and  
18 breadth of knowledge and experience at the helm,  
19 and I thank him for taking on this new role. We  
20 are in the process of looking for a permanent  
21 director and will have an inclusive process, but I  
22 want to thank him and introduce him to you all.

23 GOVERNOR CRIST: Colonel, would you like to  
24 say a word?

25 COLONEL CZERNIS: Sure.

1 GOVERNOR CRIST: You're from Vero Beach?

2 COLONEL CZERNIS: Yes, sir, I sure am. That's  
3 where I grew up, and I served on the city police  
4 department there for two and a half years.

5 GOVERNOR CRIST: Very good.

6 COLONEL CZERNIS: Governor and members of the  
7 Cabinet, it's sincerely a pleasure to stand before  
8 you today representing the members of the Highway  
9 Patrol. Our troopers, Florida's troopers are  
10 patrolling the highways and responding to calls for  
11 service day in and day out, 365 days a year. I'm  
12 so proud of them and so proud of the work that they  
13 do, and it's just a honor to serve in this interim  
14 capacity. I certainly appreciate you and the  
15 Cabinet for the direction and support that you give  
16 us. It's a team, and we work together as a team to  
17 make Florida a better place. Thank you for  
18 allowing me a few moments to speak to you.

19 GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you, Colonel.  
20 Appreciate your good work.

21 MS. BUSTLE: Thank you very much. Thank you,  
22 Colonel.

23 Now to our agenda. We have three agenda  
24 items. Our first item is the minutes of the  
25 July 31st Cabinet meeting.



1 GOVERNOR CRIST: Is there a motion on the  
2 minutes?

3 CFO SINK: Move it.

4 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Second.

5 GOVERNOR CRIST: Moved and seconded. Show  
6 them approved without objection.

7 MS. BUSTLE: Our second item is our June 30,  
8 2007 annual performance report and our contracts  
9 and purchases over \$100,000.

10 Last year we patrolled 31.6 million miles of  
11 highway, served 12.6 million customers around the  
12 state, and had many successes, as reflected in the  
13 report that we've provided you. We met the  
14 majority, 86 percent of our performance measures.  
15 We're working hard to continue that trend.

16 GOVERNOR CRIST: Excellent. Is there a motion  
17 to approve?

18 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: So move.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL McCOLLUM: Second.

20 GOVERNOR CRIST: Moved and seconded. Show it  
21 approved.

22 CFO SINK: Governor?

23 GOVERNOR CRIST: CFO. Pardon me.

24 CFO SINK: Let me just -- I have just a couple  
25 of little questions here.

1 First of all, compliments on the performance  
2 report. It was very well done, and more  
3 importantly, there's a lot of good statistics in  
4 there.

5 But one of the things that I picked up on here  
6 was this factoid that says drinking drivers in  
7 crashes. Twenty-one-year-old drivers have the  
8 highest involvement rate in all crashes and in  
9 fatal crashes. One-eighth -- am I correct in  
10 interpreting this is just one age group, people who  
11 are the age of 21? Is that right, Electra?

12 MS. BUSTLE: I believe that is a range.  
13 Mr. Westberry, is -- I think that's a range. Is  
14 that 18 through 21, or just 21-year-olds?

15 MR. WESTBERRY: Eighteen through 21.

16 MS. BUSTLE: Eighteen through 21.

17 CFO SINK: Okay. Because -- well, it just  
18 leads me to conclude that if we could have some  
19 very targeted communications, particularly on  
20 college campuses, where many of these 21-year-old  
21 drivers are reaching legal drinking age, that  
22 perhaps we could have some impact in reducing the  
23 fatalities from drinking drivers, because it's  
24 obvious that they're mostly occurring within this  
25 younger age group, as we all know.



1 MS. BUSTLE: I think that's an excellent  
2 point, CFO. And to target education to prevent  
3 that from happening rather than having to come to  
4 the crash, I mean, that is an excellent point, and  
5 working with the universities would be an excellent  
6 initiative.

7 GOVERNOR CRIST: Good point, CFO. Thank you.  
8 General, did you have a --

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL McCOLLUM: I don't, no.  
10 Thank you.

11 MS. BUSTLE: Our last legislative -- our last  
12 item on the agenda is our legislative budget  
13 request. The issues listed -- I'm sorry. I've  
14 just been given a note, which is always important.  
15 I need to withdraw Item Number 3 from the agenda.

16 GOVERNOR CRIST: Is there a motion to withdraw  
17 Item 3?

18 CFO SINK: Move it.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL McCOLLUM: Second.

20 GOVERNOR CRIST: Moved and seconded to  
21 withdraw. It's withdrawn.

22 MS. BUSTLE: Thank you. The issues listed in  
23 our legislative budget request revolve around our  
24 strategic efforts in workforce development,  
25 improved service delivery, performance management,

1 and improved communications internally and  
2 externally. We also took into account our current  
3 efforts to reduce the state budget and focus on  
4 core mission critical functions in our request.

5 As you can see in our legislative budget  
6 request, our number one agency priority is the  
7 trooper recruitment and retention pay plan. These  
8 men and women play a critical role in the safety  
9 and security of our highways and our citizens, and  
10 you all have been very supportive of their needs.  
11 Last year you supported and the Governor  
12 recommended the same pay plan to assist with our  
13 compression efforts and to start to make the  
14 Florida Highway Patrol competitive with city and  
15 county law enforcement agencies and assist in our  
16 recruitment and retention efforts.

17 But we continue to have a high vacancy rate of  
18 12 percent in June 2007, and we have carried on  
19 average 200 vacancies for the last five years. Of  
20 83 troopers surveyed who left the agency last year,  
21 41 percent of them noted pay as the reason for  
22 leaving.

23 And just to give you an example, here in Leon  
24 County, the starting salary of a Leon County  
25 sheriff's deputy is 10 percent higher than the

1 Florida Highway Patrol starting salary, and the  
2 Tallahassee Police Department is even higher than  
3 that. We looked at statistics, and it takes an  
4 average trooper at least five years to get to the  
5 starting pay of the Tallahassee Police Department,  
6 and you can see that trend statewide.

7 I can recall speaking to a trooper on the  
8 Turnpike, a rest area, and he was a corporal, a  
9 traffic homicide investigator ten years, making  
10 \$40,000 a year, and the starting pay for  
11 Tallahassee is 39,200. So we have work to do, and  
12 I know you all have focused on that, and I would  
13 ask again this year for your support on that issue.

14 We are also looking at recruitment and  
15 retention of our customer service positions in our  
16 driver's license offices. They also have had an  
17 exponential increase in responsibilities since  
18 September 11, 2001, performing many duties like  
19 reviewing documents from Immigration, Customs and  
20 Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, to  
21 determine if folks are here legally in our state.

22 We have a five-year facility improvement plan  
23 in there for the first time. We've actually  
24 assessed a five-year plan rather than come to you  
25 yearly. And it is based on the Department of



1 Management Services facilities assessment.

2 So you will see overall the request focuses  
3 around our strategic issues, and we would ask for  
4 your support. I'm happy to answer any questions  
5 you have.

6 GOVERNOR CRIST: Any questions?

7 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Yes, please.

8 GOVERNOR CRIST: Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Thank you. Electra,  
10 you probably have received some of the same  
11 information we have on the fact that not only are  
12 we going through these cuts now, but we're probably  
13 going to be looking at the potential for more come  
14 March. And I know this is designed toward this  
15 next year's budgetary process.

16 I support the compression issue that you have.  
17 I've got the same issue that I would imagine that  
18 every law enforcement agency in state government,  
19 including fire --

20 CFO SINK: We have it.

21 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: -- have compression.  
22 I've got it with my -- we lose almost 25 percent of  
23 our firefighters every year, or every two years, to  
24 local community fire departments. So those issues  
25 have to be addressed. We've put them off, but the

1 budget is going to create some problems for us.  
2 Capital outlay is another issue with every agency.  
3 And I hope that -- while you're asking for the  
4 support for those issues, which I certainly  
5 support, that may not come at the end of the  
6 budgetary process, because I did notice that you  
7 were up about 29 total percent. That's counting  
8 the compression issue for your officers. So I  
9 certainly can support that as a Cabinet member, but  
10 I'm not sure we're going to get there.

11 MS. BUSTLE: Understood. I appreciate your  
12 comments.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MCCOLLUM: I have one too,  
14 Governor. I just notice in the budget items this  
15 effort to try to get the customer queuing system or  
16 lining-up system more automated. And having been  
17 in these offices, I know, and I know many of our  
18 citizens have, that would be a very valuable thing,  
19 if I'm reading it right. Would you explain that a  
20 little bit to us, how that works, Electra?

21 MS. BUSTLE: Sure, General. Many offices, tax  
22 collectors also do driver's license work for us,  
23 and they have what's called a queuing system. It's  
24 an electronic system where a customer comes in and  
25 is immediately given a ticket, and that ticket is

1           tracked all the way through when they actually get  
2           to the examiner or the customer service specialist.

3           It not only tracks the numbers, but it also  
4           tracks skilled-based needs. For instance, if a  
5           customer has a driver's license issue rather than  
6           maybe a financial responsibility issue, it's able  
7           to say that person needs to go to this particular  
8           customer service specialist. It has a reporting  
9           ability that is unbelievable. You can actually be  
10          in a county, and, for instance, we could be here in  
11          Tallahassee, and I could be looking at Miami  
12          driver's license offices and on a dashboard be able  
13          to see that the wait times are beyond an acceptable  
14          rate, and we can work towards adding resources.  
15          It's a resource management tool.

16          So all the way around, it provides us accurate  
17          and real-time information where we can make  
18          management and resource decisions. And it will  
19          also provide you all a better opportunity to see  
20          the numbers of customers coming in and the types of  
21          work we are doing. As I said, tax collectors  
22          already have it in their offices, and they have  
23          shown great success in customer service  
24          improvements as a result of putting that in there.

25                 ATTORNEY GENERAL McCOLLUM: Well, I'm really



1           pleased to see this in here, and I'm glad you  
2           explained it, because I think, while we all focus  
3           on the Highway Patrol, and the department you run  
4           is safety conscious, and I'm much that way myself,  
5           this is a great public service. You have to meet  
6           the public, and this is important.

7           Thank you.

8           GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you, General. CFO?

9           CFO SINK: Yes. Thank you, Governor.

10          Would you review with us what the proposed  
11          cuts might be from this year's budget? Obviously,  
12          we don't know yet until the Legislature takes  
13          action, but what is on the table in terms of cuts,  
14          and how does that reconcile with your request then  
15          to add 60 more troopers for the next fiscal year  
16          after that?

17          MS. BUSTLE: I don't have the list. I'll go  
18          off the top of my head for just a little bit. I  
19          know that most of the cuts are off of our  
20          recommended --

21          GOVERNOR CRIST: You mean the reductions of  
22          the increases?

23          MS. BUSTLE: Yes. I'm sorry. The reductions  
24          are off of the list that we had provided. There  
25          are some that were excess budget authority and



1 things to that effect. So they were very careful  
2 in what I understand to adhere to looking at  
3 keeping service and public safety and seeing where  
4 we can create efficiencies.

5 As it relates to the Highway Patrol, there is  
6 approximately 57 positions on the list of  
7 reductions, all vacancies, and not all troopers.  
8 Some are in supervisory positions.

9 What we did with the 60 positions, this is a  
10 -- it's a plan that was actually initiated two  
11 years ago through a formalized process to determine  
12 how many troopers we need on the road. And  
13 understanding that we are in a mode of reducing our  
14 expenses, we really felt it was important to  
15 continue to have that plan at least on the table  
16 for discussion, understanding where we are  
17 budgetarily. And if we are able to get some  
18 compression and some pay changes, we can bring that  
19 200 vacancies down, and then we're not looking at  
20 all these vacant positions. So it's a balancing  
21 act.

22 So we are looking at some reductions, but  
23 they're not necessarily all trooper positions.  
24 It's all throughout the ranks, and we feel like we  
25 can do that without impacting service at this

1 point.

2 CFO SINK: And, Governor, I do want to share  
3 Commissioner Bronson's concern about the very large  
4 pay disparities between our sworn law officers  
5 across state government. I think at some point, it  
6 would be good to have the Department of Management  
7 Services perhaps do a survey across state  
8 government similar to what the Highway Patrol has  
9 done, comparing their pay rates and grades with  
10 other comparable law enforcement agencies. We  
11 desperately need to have that happen just so that  
12 we know where we are in state government and that  
13 we don't then start to have huge disparities  
14 between Highway Patrol, Insurance Fraud, Fish and  
15 Wildlife. All of these classes of jobs really need  
16 to be addressed, I believe, in kind of one package.

17 COMMISSIONER BRONSON: Governor, if I might  
18 follow up on that, the thing that I come back to  
19 all the time is, you know, it's great to have great  
20 trained law enforcement and firefighters in the  
21 state, but if the State is the one doing all the  
22 training and spending the money and the expense to  
23 train them so local agencies can get them without  
24 having to pay for that training, they're getting a  
25 great deal.

1           And for a few percentages of salary costs,  
2           we're losing our shirts on this deal, because it  
3           costs us quite a bit of money to have everybody  
4           trained, our officers and agents, especially  
5           officers and agents that handle issues that most  
6           law enforcement don't even handle, because we  
7           concentrate on those, and it takes a lot of  
8           training to do that. Our firefighters are trained  
9           for both forest and structural fires, so when a  
10          local agency picks them up, they get a trained  
11          person and forest fire training that they normally  
12          wouldn't pay for in their normal processes.

13          So it's costing the State insurmountable  
14          amounts of money to do this and keep having that  
15          turnover every couple of years. It's just killing  
16          us. And we really do need to have a quality report  
17          done on what it's really costing us by not being  
18          able to meet some minimum salaries that would work  
19          for us iin compression and so forth.

20          MS. BUSTLE: Agreed.

21          GOVERNOR CRIST: I think I have some hopeful  
22          thoughts for you --

23          CFO SINK: Good.

24          GOVERNOR CRIST: -- along those lines, with  
25          what I believe the Legislature will do shortly, as



1           Senator Jeff Atwater would describe it, conduct an  
2           intervention into local governments that we compete  
3           with for these fine officers, and I think they're  
4           going to do that shortly.

5           But I think that it will also benefit our  
6           ability to greater reward law enforcement officers  
7           at the state level, because I think with the  
8           reduction in those property taxes, there will be  
9           more spending of disposable income by our fellow  
10          Floridians, which will end up in increased sales  
11          tax revenue for the State Treasury, so we can  
12          compete better and keep more of these officers that  
13          are at the state level and be more competitive with  
14          our friends in local government.

15          Any other questions?

16          MS. BUSTLE: That's all I have.

17          GOVERNOR CRIST: Thank you. Good job.

18          MS. BUSTLE: Thank you. Thanks.

19          GOVERNOR CRIST: Mike Sole, Board of Trustees.

20          Secretary, how are you?

21          MR. SOLE: Doing well, Governor.

22          GOVERNOR CRIST: Good.

23          MR. SOLE: Good morning, Cabinet members.

24          Item number 1 is submittal of the minutes for the  
25          July 31st, August 14th, and August 28th Cabinet



1 meetings.

2 GOVERNOR CRIST: Oh, hold on, Mike.

3 MR. SOLE: Sure.

4 GOVERNOR CRIST: I made a mistake. We needed  
5 to vote on that. But before we -- the last item,  
6 Electra. I don't know that you need to come back  
7 up, but --

8 CFO SINK: She's probably gone.

9 GOVERNOR CRIST: Probably gone, so you don't  
10 need to at all. But I'm not going to vote on it.  
11 I can't. But first, is there a motion?

12 CFO SINK: Well, I move it.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MCCOLLUM: Second it.

14 GOVERNOR CRIST: Moved and seconded. Wait.  
15 Just give me a second. Okay. So it has been moved  
16 and seconded. Is there any objection?

17 CFO SINK: No.

18 GOVERNOR CRIST: Okay. Great. Florida law  
19 requires the Governor to independently submit a  
20 budget proposal. Accordingly, I am abstaining from  
21 the vote on that item. Therefore, the record  
22 should reflect that this item is approved with one  
23 abstention. That was Item Number 4 for the last  
24 agenda.

25

# PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 1900

**Sponsored By:** Representative D. Alan Hays  
Senator Carey Baker

**Additional Fee:** \$25 Annual Use Fee  
\$ 2 Processing Fee

**Fees Distributed to:** Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.

**Purpose:** The annual use fees shall be distributed to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., a citizen support organization created pursuant to s. 372.0215, which shall administer the fees as follows:

1. Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc., shall retain the first \$60,000 of the annual use fees as direct reimbursement for administrative costs, startup costs, and costs incurred in the development and approval process.
2. Thereafter, a maximum of 10 percent of the fees may be used for administrative costs directly associated with education programs, conservation, springs research, and grant administration of the foundation. A maximum of 15 percent of the fees may be used for continuing promotion and marketing of the license plate.
3. At least 55 percent of the fees shall be available for competitive grants for targeted community-based springs research not currently available for state funding. The remaining 20 percent shall be directed toward community outreach programs aimed at implementing such research findings. The competitive grants shall be administered and approved by the board of directors of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. The granting advisory committee shall be composed of nine members, including one representative from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, one representative from the Department of Environmental Protection, one representative from the Department of Health, one representative from the Department of Community Affairs, three citizen representatives, and two representatives from nonprofit stakeholder groups.
4. The remaining funds shall be distributed with the approval of and accountability to the board of directors of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, and shall be used to support activities contributing to education, outreach, and springs conservation.

**Approval:** Organization, Legislative and law enforcement approval letters on file.

**Production and Sales Availability:** If approved, the plate will go into production and be available for purchase within six months.

**Initial Order:** 12,000



FLORIDA

DECAL

SAMPLE

*Protect Florida Springs*

